

## IN THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and listings.

1. (currently amended) A computer-implemented distribution request management method, ~~characterized in that~~ comprising:

setting a maximum number of distributable requests ~~is set~~ arbitrarily for requests from one communication network to one or plural ~~contents~~ content providing servers provided on another communication network, said requests being made for distribution of signals including data of contents; and

~~a request management means for managing said requests sends~~ sending said signal distribution requests to said ~~contents~~ content providing servers as long as ~~[[the]]~~ a number of said requests is within a range not larger than said maximum number.

2. (currently amended) A distribution request management method according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a reserved number is set arbitrarily within a range not larger than said maximum number, and a space for requests for distribution of signals including data of each of one or plural specific contents is held to correspond to said reserved number.

3. (currently amended) A distribution request management method according to Claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein an upper limit reserved number not smaller than said reserved number is set arbitrarily within a range not larger than said maximum number for each of said specific contents, and requests for distribution of signals including data of said specific contents, the number of which requests is larger than said reserved number and not larger

than said upper limit reserved number, are sent to said ~~contents~~ content providing servers as long as the number of said signal distribution requests is within a range of a number obtained by subtracting said reserved numbers assigned for said specific contents from said maximum number.

4. (currently amended) A distribution request management method according to Claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein for contents for which said upper limit reserved number is set at 0, said signal distribution requests are not sent to said ~~contents~~ content providing servers.

5. (currently amended) A distribution request management method according to Claim 2, ~~characterized in that: wherein, when said request management means concludes it is~~ concluded that reservation start conditions are satisfied for requests for distribution of signals including data of one of said specific contents, ~~said request management means assigns a free space~~ is assigned to said requests so as to hold a space corresponding to said set reserved number ~~till~~ until said assigned free space reaches said reserved number as long as said assigned free space is within a range of a number obtained by subtracting said reserved numbers assigned for said specific contents from said maximum number.

6. (currently amended) A distribution request management method according to Claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein:

when ~~said request management means concludes it is concluded~~ it is concluded that reservation termination conditions are satisfied for requests for distribution of signals including data of one of said specific contents,

said ~~request management means releases~~ said held space corresponding to said reserved number is released.

7. (currently amended) A computer-implemented distribution request management method, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein:

when a request management means for managing requests which are made from one communication network to a ~~contents~~ content providing server provided on another communication network and for distribution of signals including data of contents in a streaming format concludes that a signal including data of a specific one of said contents requested by said signal distribution requests is a signal out of an arbitrarily defined bandwidth range, said request management means prevents distribution of said signal including data of said specific one of said contents.

8. (currently amended) A distribution request management method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said one communication network is a mobile communication network performing wireless communication with mobile terminal devices.

9. (currently amended) A distribution request management apparatus comprising a processor and a memory and being provided on a communication network between one communication network and another communication network, ~~characterized by carrying out a process in which~~ wherein requests for distribution of signals including data of contents are sent from said one communication network to a ~~contents~~ content providing server provided on said another communication network ~~as long as~~ when the processor determines that the

number of said ~~signal distribution~~ requests for distribution of signals is within a range not larger than a maximum number of distributable requests set arbitrarily.

10. (currently amended) A distribution request management apparatus according to Claim 9, ~~characterized by carrying out a process in which~~ wherein a space for requests for distribution of signals including data of each of one or plural specific contents is held to correspond to a reserved number set arbitrarily within a range not larger than said maximum number.

11. (currently amended) A distribution request management apparatus according to Claim ~~[[9]]~~ 10, ~~characterized by carrying out a process in which~~ wherein when it is concluded that the number of requests for distribution of signals including data of each of said specific contents is larger than said reserved number and not larger than an upper limit reserved number set arbitrarily within a range not smaller than said reserved number, said ~~signal distribution~~ requests for distribution of signals are sent to said ~~contents~~ content providing server as long as the number of said requests is within a range of a number obtained by subtracting said reserved numbers assigned for said specific contents from said maximum number.

12. (currently amended) A distribution request management apparatus according to Claim 11, ~~characterized by carrying out a process in which~~ wherein when it is concluded that said upper limit reserved number for a specific one of said contents is set at 0, said ~~signal distribution~~ requests for signal distribution including data of said specific one of said contents are not sent.

13. (currently amended) A distribution request management apparatus according to Claim 10, ~~characterized by carrying out a process in which~~ wherein when it is concluded that reservation start conditions are satisfied for requests for distribution of signals including data of one of said specific contents, a free space is assigned to said requests so as to secure a space corresponding to said set reserved number ~~till~~ until said assigned free space reaches said reserved number as long as said assigned free space is within a range of a number obtained by subtracting said reserved numbers assigned for said specific contents from said maximum number.

14. (currently amended) A distribution request management apparatus according to Claim 10, ~~characterized by carrying out a process in which~~ wherein when it is concluded that reservation termination conditions are satisfied for requests for distribution of signals including data of one of said specific contents, said held space corresponding to said reserved number is released.

15. (currently amended) A distribution request management apparatus comprising a processor and a memory and being provided on a communication network between one communication network and another communication network, ~~characterized by carrying out a process in which:~~

~~when it is concluded~~ said processor concludes that a signal including data of contents in a streaming format and requested by a distribution request from a processing apparatus on said one communication network is a signal out of a arbitrarily defined bandwidth range, said signal including data of said contents is not distributed from a ~~contents~~ content distribution apparatus on said another communication network to said one communication network.

16. (currently amended) A distribution request management apparatus according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said one communication network is a mobile communication network performing wireless communication with mobile terminal devices.

17. (currently amended) A computer-readable medium storing a program which, when executed by a computer, performs [[of]] a distribution request management method, ~~characterized by making a computer execute the processes of~~ the method comprising:

determining whether [[the]] a number of signals transmitted from one communication network and including instructions of requests to distribute signals including data of contents is a number within a range not larger than a maximum number of distributable signals set arbitrarily, or not; and

sending said signals transmitted including said ~~request~~ instructions of requests to a ~~contents~~ content providing server provided on another communication network when it is concluded that said number of said signals transmitted is a number within a range not larger than said maximum number of distributable signals.

18. (currently amended) A program of a distribution request management method according to Claim 17, ~~characterized by~~ wherein the method further ~~making said computer execute the processes of~~ comprises:

determining whether said distribution request instructions included in ~~said transmitted~~ the signals transmitted are instructions of requests to distribute signals including data of a specific one of said contents or not;

determining whether the number of said signals transmitted is a number within a range not larger than a reserved number set arbitrarily for said specific one of said contents when it

is concluded that said distribution request instructions included in said ~~transmitted~~ signals transmitted are instructions of requests to distribute signals including data of said specific one of said contents; and

~~transmitting~~ sending said signals including said request instructions to said ~~contents~~ content providing server provided on said another communication network when it is concluded that the number of said signals transmitted is a number within a range not larger than said reserved number.

19. (currently amended) A program of a distribution request management method according to Claim 18, ~~characterized by~~ wherein the method further ~~making said computer execute the processes of~~ comprises:

determining whether the number of said signals transmitted is a number within a range not larger than an upper limit reserved number set to be not smaller than said reserved number, or not, when it is concluded that the number of said signals transmitted is not a number within a range not larger than said reserved number;

determining whether the number of said signals transmitted is a number within a range not larger than a remaining number obtained by subtracting reserved numbers assigned to specific ones of said contents from said maximum number of distributable signals, or not, when it is concluded that the number of said signals transmitted is a number within a range not larger than said upper limit reserved number; and

~~transmitting~~ sending said signals transmitted including said request instructions to said ~~contents~~ content providing server provided on said another communication network when it is concluded that the number of said signals transmitted is a number within a range not larger than said remaining number.

20. (currently amended) A program of a distribution request management method according to Claim 19, ~~characterized by~~ wherein the method further ~~making said computer execute the process of~~ comprises:

preventing said signals transmitted including said request instructions from being ~~transmitted~~ sent to said ~~contents~~ content providing server provided on said another communication network when it is concluded that said upper limit reserved number is set at 0 for said signals transmitted including said instructions of requests to distribute signals including data of said specific one of said contents.

21. (currently amended) A program of a distribution request management method according to Claim 18, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said method further comprises:

if it is concluded that reservation start conditions are satisfied for requests for distribution of signals including data of a specific one of said contents,

~~said computer is made to execute said process of transmitting~~ sending said signals transmitted including said request instructions to said ~~contents~~ content providing server ~~till~~ until the number of said signals transmitted reaches said set reserved number only when it is concluded that said instructions are instructions of requests for distribution of signals including data of said specific one of said contents.

22. (currently amended) A program of a distribution request management method according to Claim 18, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said method further comprises:

if it is concluded that reservation termination conditions are satisfied for requests for distribution of signals including data of a specific one of said contents,

~~said computer is prevented from carrying out said process of~~ preventing said determining

of whether said instructions are instructions of requests for distribution of signals including data of said specific one of said contents.

23. (currently amended) A computer-readable medium storing a program which, when executed by a computer, performs [[of]] a distribution request management method, ~~characterized in that~~ the method comprising:

when it is concluded that a signal including data of a specific one of contents in a streaming format and requested by a distribution request from one communication network to a ~~contents~~ content providing server provided on another communication network is a signal out of an arbitrarily defined bandwidth range, ~~a computer is made to carry out the process of~~ preventing signal distribution including data of said specific one of contents.

24. (currently amended) A computer-readable medium storing a program [[of]] which, when executed, performs the [[a]] distribution request management method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said one communication network is a mobile communication network performing wireless communication with mobile terminal devices.